

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

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CINCUSAFE

UNCLAS ANKARA 1804

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, MILI, TU
SUBJ: ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION IN TURKISH AIR FORCE

REF USDAO 368 DTG 061000 MAR 76

1. ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION IN TURKISH AIR FORCE (TAF) CONTINUE TO BE FOCUS OF PRESS ATTENTION, ALTHOUGH FEW DETAILS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THOSE REPORTED REFTEL. WEEKEND NEWSPAPERS GAVE BIG PLAY TO GENERL ALPKAYA'S STATEMENT OF INNOCENCE OF WRONGDOING AND TO REPORTS SUGGESTING THAT OTHER TAF GENERAL OFFICERS MAY ALSO BE INVOLVED IN SCANDALS.

2. GENERAL ALPKAYA DEFENDED HIMSELF AGAINST CHARGES OF CORRUPTION MAINTAINING, ACCORDING TO PRESS, THAT HE "WAS HONORABLE AND INNOCENT," BUT THAT "THE GODS MUST HAVE DEMANDED A SACRIFICE AND HE HAD BEEN CHOSEN." HE BRANDED CRITICISM OF TAF AS UNJUST, ADDING THAT SUCH CRITICISM IS BEING VOICED IN PUBLIC AND "IN CERTAIN QUARTERS," AND INDICATED THAT HE RESIGNED TO SPARE FURTHER DAMAGE TO TAF AND TO MAKE THE INVESTIGATION OF CONNECTION WITH THE \$30,000 DONATED FOR THE LICE SCHOOL AND IN UNCLASSIFIED

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CONNECTION WITH OTHER MATTERS EASIER TO CONDUCT.

3. ON MARCH 7, LOCAL PAPERS REPORTED THAT LT GENERAL IHSAN GOKSARAN, TAF CHIEF OF STAFF, MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE \$30,000 DIVERSION OF FUNDS FOR LICE AND WITH IMPROPRIETIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE PURCHASE OF JET AIRLINERS FOR TURKISH AIRLINES (GOKSARAN WAS GENERAL MANAGE OF THY IN 1971.) GOKSARAN HAS DENIED THE ALLEGATIONS. ACCORDING TO PRESS, AN UNNAMED MEMBER OF THE TURKISH GENERAL STAFF SAID THAT "THERE ARE MAY NAMES IN THE INVESTIGATION REPORT, BUT THESE NAMES CANNOT BE MADE PUBLIC YET." IN ADDITION TO ALPKAYA AND GOKSARAN, THE MARCH 7 AYRINTILI HABER REPORTED THAT MAJOR GENERAL SAHAD ER, LT GENERAL NECDET URUG, LT GENERAL BIDAT CELISUN, LT GENERAL MEHMET HARPUT, AND GENERAL ELTEM HUHI, ALL OF TAF, WILL BE INVESTIGATED.
MACOMBER

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NNN

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